

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

The Office Action dated October 1, 2004, and the references cited therein have been received and reviewed. In that Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Leiman. Claims 4, 6, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leiman in view of Schwartz. Because it is not believed that these references, taken alone or in combination, show or suggest the invention defined by the pending claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, a printing system comprising at least one customer service system, a plurality of laboratory servers, and an order assigning system between the at least one customer service system and laboratory servers. The order assigning system receives order information from the customer service system, selects one of the laboratory servers to output a print based on predetermined information, and transfers the order to the selected laboratory server.

The Office Action interprets the "output managers" 60 of Leiman as the order assigning system of claim 1. However, there is no indication in Leiman that these output managers select an output server for receiving a print. Rather, Leiman provides, at column 5, lines 49-50, "Using the GUI, a print operator selects a job in

the server spool and directs the job to a specific printer." Therefore, the printer is selected by a human operator. It does not appear that the output managers 60 perform any selecting function as stated in the Office Action. For at least this reason, claim 1 is submitted to distinguish over Leiman.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 3 further distinguishes over Leiman by requiring that the order assigning system detect a load status of each of the laboratory servers at the time of receiving the order information and use the result of the detection as the predetermined information. The Office Action refers to a data transformation process that reads a job from a spool, converts the data stream as required, and writes the data back to the spool. The data transformation process "also updates the database with status information and error condition messages...." In this context, the above language suggests that "status information" refers to the status of the data transformation process that is discussed at lines 49-61. There is no indication that the data transformation process detects a load status of a laboratory server and uses this information as the predetermined information for deciding where to send a print order as required by claim 3. Claim 3 is submitted to further distinguish over Leiman for this reason.

Claim 5 requires that the predetermined information be

information specifying one of the laboratory servers described in the order information by the customer. The Office Action interprets element 52 of Leiman as the "customer service system." However, there is no indication in Leiman that element 52 receives information specifying one of the laboratory servers as part of the order information received from MVS client 116. Instead, an operator selects which printer to use. Claim 5 is submitted to further distinguish over Leiman for this reason.

Claim 7 further distinguishes over Leiman by requiring that the order assigning system transfer information related to a selected laboratory server to the customer service system that received the order information. Based on the interpretation of Leiman used in the Office Action, Leiman's "order assigning system" 60 would have to transfer information to "customer service system" 116. There is no showing or suggestion in Leiman that element 60 communicates with element 116 as would be required by the examiner's interpretation of Leiman. Claim 7 is submitted to further distinguish over the references of record for this reason.

Claim 8 is rejected "for the same reasons as claim 1." It is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is allowable for the same reasons provided in connection with claim 1. Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 8.

Claims 15-21 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1. It

is submitted that claims 15-21 are allowable for the same reasons provided above in connection with claim 1.

Claim 4 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Leiman in view of Schwartz. The Office Action acknowledges that Leiman does not show a printing system in which the predetermined information is an address of a customer that was included in order information. However, Schwartz teaches that a client computer sends a request to a print server "for the address of an appropriate printer 20 to send the print job 17." Requesting the address of a printer is in no way related to sending a print order that includes customer address information which customer address information is then used to determine to which laboratory server to send a print job. Claims 4 and 11 are submitted to further distinguish over the art of record for this reason.

Claims 6 and 13 depend from claims 1 and 8 respectively and are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 8. Schwartz does not address the shortcomings of Leiman discussed above in connection with claims 1 and 8, and claims 6 and 13 are submitted to further distinguish over the art of record for this reason.

Conclusion

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated October 1, 2004, has been addressed, and it is submitted that claims 1-21 are now in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance

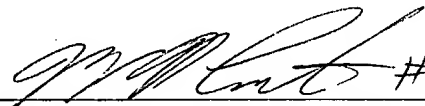
of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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